



Historic Blast-Off

The three-person crew of the Shenzhou IX docked at China's Tiangong-1 space lab after blasting off last Saturday. The mission, a stepping stone in the country's plan for an orbiting space station by 2020, made history by sending the first female taikonaut into orbit. The extensive media coverage about the career and history of the young Liu Yang has driven her family into hiding.

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Couple cares
for orphans
in Tianjin

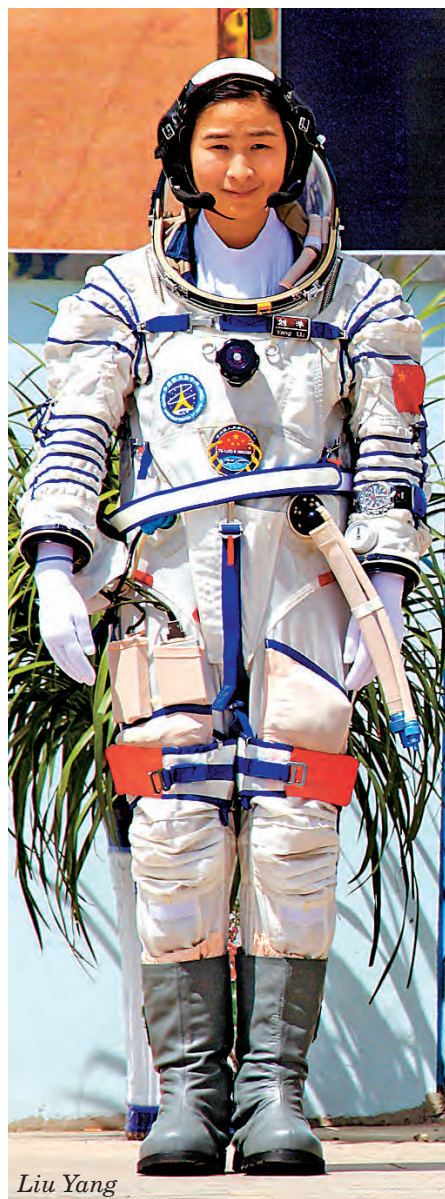
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Master of
mime shares
his silence

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Canadian
food core of
'Eh Week'

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Liu Yang



Jing Haipeng



Liu Wang

First female taikonaut takes seat in history



The three Chinese taikonauts greet their colleagues on the ground as they enter the space lab Tiangong-1.

Xinhua Photos

By Zhao Hongyi

The Shenzhou IX docked at the Tiangong-1 space laboratory last Saturday. But the popularity of the mission has been overshadowed by one of its crew members: 33-year-old Liu Yang, the first female taikonaut.

The crew will conduct manual docking tests on Sunday at speeds of 7.9 kilometers per second to test the reliability of the crafts and the minimum fuel required to dock.

The Tiangong-1 has been in orbit since last September. The lab is something of a trial run for the Chinese orbital space station, which is expected to launch by 2020.

The crew of the Shenzhou IX, which includes Liu as well as mission commander Jing Haipeng, 45, and Liu Wang, 43, took the craft

into the orbit to conduct a series of scientific experiments and two dockings.

Jing compared living at zero gravity to the feeling of standing on one's head.

Before the launch, local media reported extensively on the experience of life in space and the story of China's first female taikonaut.

Gao Feng, a researcher of China's Astronaut Research and Training Center, said the taikonauts sleep in a 15-square-meter living and research space.

They have 50 kinds of foods to choose from, including *zongzi*, a wrapped glutinous rice dumpling eaten during the Dragon Boat Festival.

The laptops on board the Tiangong-1 allow the taikonauts to watch movies, listen to music and browse



Liu Yang, the first female taikonaut

the Internet. A private room in an attached module allows them to make video calls to their home. A stationary bicycle is their main exercise facility.

Liu Yang was selected to join the crew only a week before launch.

Females in space are more likely to develop intolerance to physical disorder

and often take a longer time to recover, Gao Feng said. Generally, only married women who have not given birth through a cesarean section are selected for space exploration.

Thousands of Chinese reporters visited her parents' home in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, and the home of her in-laws in



A Long March 2F (CZ-2F) carrier rocket propels the Shenzhou-9 (Shenzhou IX) spacecraft during its launch.

Wuhan, Hubei Province in the days before the launch.

They interviewed Liu's childhood friends, school teachers, neighbors and relatives, assembling a detailed history of the young taikonaut.

"Daughter, I love you," said Niu Xiyun, Liu's mother, after the launch. "You are the flower in my heart."

"My wish is that she and all of the crew finish the mission successfully," said her father, Liu Shilin.

Liu's parents have been in hiding to avoid media harassment.

Liu has the distinction of being the first taikonaut to draw the attention of foreign media. AP, Reuters and AFP wrote special reports on Liu and the progress China has made in space exploration.

London Taxis face tough times in China

By Bao Chengrong

With the London Olympic Games approaching, all eyes are on the city's famous black TX4 London taxis.

There are actually 30 TX4 taxis driving on Beijing's roads, but it might be hard to ever see one. The TX4 vehicles are monopolized by the embassies and a handful of companies. Some sit parked outside tourist destinations or hotels for foreign customers.

A chartered TX4 costs more than 600 yuan per hour, making it difficult to secure one for a short-distance trip. Although the TX4s were introduced to the city to help the city's 35,000 wheelchair

users reach the Olympic venues, few were ever able to book one of the taxis.

Part of the problem is that the TX4s are gas hogs. A TX4 taxi burns 10.3 liters of gas per 100 kilometers while a common taxi burns 8.1 liters of gasoline in the same distance.

This means that the driver of a TX4 must work an extra two to four hours to earn as much as the driver of a normal taxi. Driving a TX4 becomes even more expensive during summer, when most drivers run their air conditioning.

The TX4 taxis were introduced in May 2008 for the Beijing Olympic Games.



Thirty TX4 taxis are running on Beijing roads.

CFP Photo

Sixty drivers were selected from 40,000 at the Beijing Beiqi Taxi Group and Shou Qi Group.

Shanghai, Hangzhou and

Guangzhou followed suit, ordering their own fleet of TX4s. Although the drivers were happy to have been selected to operate the spe-

cial cars, the situation soon took a turn. In Hangzhou, 31 of the TX4 drivers asked to return their vehicles.

London has a long history of taxi use.

The vehicles, initially intended for British royalty, soon found use in enhancing the mobility of disabled persons and serving weddings.

The design of the TX4 interior takes this history into consideration, reserving the passenger seat for luggage and adding a retractable staircase for wheelchair users. The rear of the taxi can seat four passengers, who can communicate with the driver over the intercom.

Going private

Leading B2B platform Alibaba delisted



CFP Photo

Alibaba.com, a leading business-to-business website of Internet giant Alibaba Group, was delisted from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Wednesday.

The withdrawal of the listing, signaling privatization of the group's only publicly traded subsidiary, took effect at 4 pm, according to a statement jointly issued by the group and the website Wednesday morning.

The privatization of Alibaba was sanctioned by the Grand Court of Cayman Islands, where

the group is registered, last Friday, as the vast majority of the website's minority shareholders voted in favor of the scheme late May, said an earlier statement.

Alibaba offered to buy back a 26 percent stake of its subsidiary for HK \$13.5 (11.1 yuan) a share, at an estimated cost of HK \$19 billion.

Shareholders gave their nod days after Alibaba Group announced it would spend about \$7 billion (44.5 billion yuan) in repurchasing up to one-half of its

major shareholder Yahoo! Inc's stake in the company, or approximately 20 percent of Alibaba's fully diluted shares.

According to the agreement reached between the two sides, if Alibaba makes an initial public offering (IPO) by the end of 2015, it will buy back one-half of Yahoo's remaining stake – a 10 percent holding – at the time of the IPO.

Alibaba.com was established in 1999 by Jack Ma in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, and went public in 2007.

Taking the website private would allow the company to make long-term decisions that are in the best interest of customers and free the company from the pressure from having a publicly listed company, said Jack Ma, the group's chairman.

Starting last year, the B2B platform, which specializes in matching buyers and sellers around the globe with Chinese suppliers, has shifted its strategy from expanding the number of paying members to

fostering a site with better quality and service, by lifting the threshold to entry.

The privatization of the Hong Kong-listed flagship company has been widely seen as preparation for the expected IPO of Alibaba Group.

"There is no timetable for the group's IPO. As for the year of 2015 mentioned in our agreement with Yahoo, it may be a time that both sides feel reasonable," said Zheng Ming, chief strategy officer of the group.

(Agencies)

Market watch

Jack Ma moving Alibaba forward

By Huang Daohen

It has been a rough 18 months for Internet billionaire Jack Ma, a former English teacher who started Alibaba in 1999, the country's leading conglomerate of Web companies.

In early 2011 a fraud scandal shook his business-to-business e-commerce site, Alibaba.com. At roughly the same time, the US government publicly shamed Alibaba-owned Taobao, a hugely successful hybrid of Amazon.com

and eBay, for enabling the sale of counterfeit merchandise.

Last fall, thousands of small merchants protested online and outside the company's headquarters in Ma's hometown, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, against a hike in Taobao's listing fees.

"I was so lonely at that time," said Ma, who considers himself a champion of local entrepreneurs and said the higher prices were necessary to fight piracy. "Nobody wanted to believe Jack Ma,"

he said.

But his bad run may be coming to an end.

On May 21 he reached a long-desired deal with Yahoo to buy back half of the US Web portal's 40 percent stake in Alibaba Group. The Chinese firm will pay Yahoo \$7.1 billion for the shares, valuing Alibaba at about \$35 billion. Yahoo and another large shareholder, SoftBank, agreed to reduce their voting rights to 49.9 percent.

Taken together, the deals

are huge steps toward Ma's goal of an initial public offering for Alibaba Group. The IPO, which Ma says is still a few years off, could be the largest stock market debut in the country's Internet history.

Currently, Alibaba.com has offices in the US, Britain, India, Japan and Korea. The group's Taobao and Tmall.com, a sister site that opened in 2008, dominate e-commerce in China and together account for 71 percent of consumers' online pur-

chases, according to research firm Analysys International.

Most of those customers use Alipay, the company's online payment service. As of late September last year, Alibaba Group earned \$268 million on sales of \$2.3 billion, according to Yahoo's annual report.

"We are much more influential than we thought," Ma said during an interview in Beijing in early June. "But this is not a business that belongs to Jack Ma," he said.

MSN stumbles again in fight against QQ

By Niu Chen

Windows Live Messenger's (MSN) share of the China market is tumbling.

The client's use on the Chinese mainland has declined from 10.6 percent in 2005 to 5.95 percent in 2011. Domestic IT giant Tencent controls 73 percent of the national market with its QQ instant messenger, according to Eguan Analysys International.

While many were quick to blame Microsoft's failure on poor user experience, professionals said it is another case of a foreign firm failing to localize its product for the Chinese market.

While many users were attracted by MSN's simple design, they complained

about its instability and limited functions.

An office worker surnamed Tan at a local IT firm said she and her colleagues have abandoned MSN in favor of Tencent QQ.

"Sometimes I can't receive others' messages and sometimes they can't receive mine," she said. "Its file transfer speed is often very slow, so we gradually migrated to QQ during the latest two years."

Other complaints included slow sign-in, cumbersome registration, high vulnerability to viruses, difficulty in recovering passwords and hacked accounts.

The instant messaging market is highly competitive, said Zhang Peng, deputy

director of operations at China Telecom.

While Tencent has continued to push out new services like blogs and streaming video, MSN shut down its MSN Spaces blogging platform. Its messaging client also remains unable to resume broken file transfers.

While QQ is the core business of Tencent, MSN China accounts for only a fraction of Microsoft's global business, said Xiang Ligang, a telecom expert and CEO of ctime.com.

But the global market paints a very different picture.

As of June 2011, MSN topped the worldwide instant message landscape with more than 40 percent of the market: Tencent's QQ, by contrast,

accounted for roughly 5 percent, according to a report by OPSWAT, a San Francisco-based software company.

The poor performance in China may be attributed to software bundling. MSN China has avoided bundling its software with Internet Explorer or the Microsoft Windows operating system, said Liu Zhenyu, general manager of MSN China.

Additionally, MSN China is far removed from the Redmond headquarters, where actual decision-making occurs, said Dong Xu, an analyst. Responses to feedback from MSN China are exceptionally slow.

Jia Jinghua, an IT critic, said that he expects MSN to withdraw from the China market during the next few years given

its poor performance.

Liu said MSN would not leave the China market, but would attempt to expand. "In the past seven years, many Internet companies have come and gone. We survived those ups and downs and are still performing fairly well in China," he said.

MSN China said it has more than 50 million active users on the mainland and recorded a 40 percent income increase and more than 200 percent growth in 2011, according to its latest fiscal report.

MSN China said that it has three sources of income: advertising on MSN.com and in its messenger software, its Bing search engine and mobile Internet.

American couple offers home to special-needs orphans



By Bao Chengrong

In the days around this year's Children's Day on June 1, many celebrities, businesspeople and media visited Shepherd's Field Children's Village (SFCA), an orphanage just outside Tianjin.

Why so much interest? It was the result of years of hard work, with ample rewards for all who have been involved.

Tim and Pam Baker, SFCA's founders, said the orphanage is exclusively for at-risk or special needs orphans. It has already provided surgeries for more than 3,000 orphans and helped 900 kids to successfully find families since 1999.



Inspired by children

The Bakers first arrived in China in 1998. Three years later, they moved to Beijing, where Tim assumed the position of director of operations at University Language Service.

Occasional visits to an orphanage in Tianjin were part of his job, and they left deep impressions on him. He volunteered to sponsor several orphanages and do regular volunteer work.

At the end of the year, he met a five-month-old girl named Esther in a Guiyang, Guizhou Province orphanage, and later decided to adopt her.

"Esther really changed us," Baker said. "We kept thinking about other kids living in the orphanage."

The Bakers wouldn't stop there. They adopted twin brothers Nathaniel and Zechariah, and a boy with a cleft lip named Phillip.

In 2002, the Philip Hayden Foundation (PHF), which Baker founded in 1995 in memory of his assistant, Philip Hayden, who died young due to a rare heart disorder, began searching for places to build an orphanage. They wanted an all-purpose campus with foster homes, an on-site clinic, school and vocational and recreation facilities.

With the help of friends and a generous donation from the local government of Wuqing, Tianjin, the Bakers broke ground on 2.4 hectares of land.

Beginnings

One of the orphanage's first children was a burn victim who was in bad shape. When the Bakers took the child to the hospital, doctors said they didn't think he was going to survive. Tim told him, "It doesn't matter how much money it costs and doesn't matter what you have to do, I just want you to treat this boy as your own son."

The boy was later transferred to Beijing Children Hospital. Doctors there questioned why the Bakers wanted to save him so badly, asking, "What possible life could he have?"

"Even if there is nobody who wants to have this little



Children learn while playing.

Photos provided by Beijing Youth Daily



The construction of the vocational center, started in 2008, still requires \$99,000 to finish.



Baker cares for all the children in the orphanage like a father.

boy, my wife and I will adopt him and someday we will see him running across the soccer field, kicking the soccer ball, going to college and doing his job," Tim said.

After six hours of surgery, the boy was well enough to be transferred to a US hospital. Baker's friend adopted the boy, who is now 10 years old, healthy

and one of the smartest students in his class, Tim said.

The boy's story made its way to American TV, which proved to be the Bakers' first big break. Money began pouring in, to the tune of \$268,000 (1.7 million yuan). In 2006, the Shepherd's Field Children's Village was officially founded.

In the past six years, the Bakers have built relationships with about 100 organizations. Thirty-five orphanages consistently send at-risk orphans to the Children's Village.

The orphanage gets volunteers, both local and foreign, who stay anywhere from a day to several months. Some adopted orphans return to help do work with their "brothers and sisters."

Adopted children leave their handprints and names on a wall — a record of a life changed by the orphanage, Baker said.

Successes and failures

Volunteers build deep relationships with the orphans, and some have even adopted one or more.

There's the story of Grace, a girl who suffered from complicated medical issues. She spent a year at the hospital and almost died several times.

An American teen saw Grace and fell in love with her charming smile. He returned home and convinced his parents to adopt her. Last Christmas, Baker received photos of Grace — a healthier, happier girl living with her American family.

Not every orphan is as lucky as Grace though.

The day before an interview with prospective parents, a child named Gang Kang-kang, who had been at the orphanage for two weeks, died. Sometimes, said Bill Moody, a doctor who volunteers at SFCA, a child's condition is worse than it appears.

There is also a long list of children waiting to get surgery — 38, in fact. Cleft palate and lip surgery usually costs between 5,000 and 6,000 yuan, while more complicated surgeries can be as expensive as 250,000 yuan.

Not ideal, but a home nonetheless

Children's Village tries its best to provide its orphans a

good life. In kindergarten, they learn English, computer skills and piano. Those who reach age 14, when they can no longer be adopted, are given technical training so that they can eventually make a life for themselves.

Su Ying, 22, is the oldest orphan at the home. She made art crafts for the Children's Village, and Baker recently learned that she started her own online chocolate business.

The Bakers are currently working on a vocational center for children older than 14. They're trying to raise the \$99,000 required to build it.

Baker said he hopes his daughter Esther can one day take over the day-to-day duties of managing SFCA. For now, though, he continues doing the heavy lifting.

There were 712,000 orphans in China in 2010, a 24 percent increase over the previous five years, according to Bureau of Civil Affairs. About 70,000 orphans live in orphanages — most were abandoned due to physical disabilities. However, about a third of orphanages are not well maintained, especially those in rural areas.

China first began allowing foreigners to adopt Chinese children in 1992. Americans have adopted the most Chinese orphans.

French mime master brings the art of silence

By Bao Chengrong

In the dark, a group of deaf-mute children's eyes are glued to a mime. The mime glides across the stage, communicating with rich expressions and body movements, engaging in a secret conversation using the language of silence.

The mime, Philippe Bizot, was in Beijing as part of the Third Nanluoguxiang Theater Festival. The show, *Invisible Bridge*, consisted of 13 chapters that illustrated themes such as love, happiness, beauty and despair.

The Song of Yueren, a traditional poem, was used near the beginning. Two other performers, Wang Xiaohuan and Julian, were students from the Central Academy of Drama.

"When I was a little boy, I thought of coming to China, and my dream was to perform with Chinese actresses," Bizot said. "The show was my dream come true."

Even during rehearsals, Bizot rarely spoke. Since neither Wang nor Julian spoke English — and Bizot didn't speak Chinese — they communicated through eye contact and body movements. A translator was called in only when the actresses needed to understand how to convey a hard-to-explain emotion.

Bizot said he could sense the differences between the

two actresses. Wang, who is Chinese, was full of emotions and pure like water, Bizot said. Meanwhile, Julian, a Korean, was a good dancer and writer.

Bizot said he loved both as if they were his daughters.

The renowned French mime said he plans to incorporate an Indian girl and people from other countries to take part in *Invisible Bridge* in the future.

Memories of travels

During his career, Bizot has traveled along around the world to perform and to teach his art.

One student in particular left a vivid impression: a blind girl who learned the craft by touching Bizot's face and "seeing" his expres-

sions and movements that way. Afterwards, the girl grabbed his arms tightly and said, "Mama, mama, take pictures!" It moved Bizot deeply, because the young girl would never be able to see the pictures.

Bizot has performed for all types of audiences, but he especially enjoys performing for the underprivileged.

"No matter whether in Africa or France, dressing up as a Chinese farmer or Bolivian worker, sorrow and joy are universal," he said.

Bizot saw his first mime when he was eight years old. He fell in love with the art at his first sight. Later, encouraged by Jean Louis Barrault, a master mime at that time, Bizot taught himself some tricks of the



trade and practiced in Paris and Bordeaux.

He can still clearly remember the first time he took the stage. He looked at himself in the mirror, his face covered in makeup. As soon as he closed his eyes, he said the feeling that swept over him was fear. "I was very afraid."

He was only signed to short four- and five-day contracts at the beginning, but an organizer one day decided to take a chance on him and give him a six-month contract. At age 20, he soon won a gold award from an international mime organization.

Perfecting his art

Bizot found inspiration by observing people and taking pictures of them, along with everyday items. He would mime at all hours, even lying awake at night.

On stage, he could feel himself transforming into his character, whether it be a little girl, a cat or even the cloud or wind.

"It's my double face," he said. "But while I'm happy to put on makeup, inside, I'm the same person."

Five or six hours before showtime at Penghao Theater, when he had the place to himself, Bizot walked around and took in the smell of the theater.

He said he liked that every show is unique — different stages, times, companions and emotions all contribute to a sense of freshness. It's also one of the appeals of mime work, as work is never the same.

The gray-haired man will celebrate 40 years of miming on his 59th birthday next year. Starting this September, he will tour the world as part of the show *The Mime Bizot, Forty Years of Silence*. The show will come to China next October or November.



Philippe Bizot (middle) performs in silence. Photos provided by Penghao Theater

Never a dull sight

Italian photographer captures everyday surprises in China

By Liu Xiaochen

After living in China for a few years, it's easy to take many of the daily sights and sounds for granted.

The trick for photographers is to keep sights fresh — and that's what Sabrina Merolla has done.

Merolla, a sinologist and photographer from Italy, recently held a small exhibition of black-and-white photographs at an Italian bar near the Drum and Bell. One photo was taken in Italy; the rest were from Beijing.

"I like the picture next to the door," she said, referring to an image of an old woman and a very young child. "They are of different generations, there's no sense of distance between them. This is the situation in China today: many children grow up, with their grandfathers and grandmothers."

Merolla first arrived in China in 2005, and has been in Beijing for more than a year. Before that, she



Sabrina Merolla's work



Merolla's photography exhibition at an Italian bar

Photos by Liu Xiaochen

studied for a doctorate in cultural studies in Shanghai for three years.

She has been a photographer for 10 years.

Merolla has always been inter-

ested in Chinese culture and how people live.

She said that many foreigners' impressions of China are superficial. They don't see how people live day-to-day. Part of the purpose of her photos is to show them.

To a deeper extent, she feels a historical resonance with her work. In addition to the history of a place or thing, every person has his or her own history, Merolla said. She thinks of that personal history as a drama with scattered scenes that can be captured by photograph and pieced together to form a narrative.

"Everyone's history is different," she said.

Merolla also prepared a group of slides from Italy, which she showed at the Italian consulate in Guangzhou. These black and white pictures were taken in places around China, including Chengdu, Shanghai, Qingdao and Yunnan Province.

Merolla has been taking pictures for 10 years, but it hasn't always been easy. During a particular rough spell, she had to put her camera down for two years to cope with loneliness and despair.

"But when I started again to take pictures, I felt nothing," she said. "I just want to get a clear look at the place where I'm living and face it bravely."

Merolla said she hopes to get feedback from locals about her work. Chinese people's suggestions and advice is crucial for her to explore future topics, she said.

She is currently planning her next project with a group of locals, communicating with them every day. She plans to cooperate with Chinese photographers.

But first, a break. Merolla will return to Italy and try her best to shoot her home country as if she were a foreigner.

First Canada Grade-Eh Week to present Canadian food culture



The Canadian foods at Switch! Grill include maple syrup-glazed ribs, Moosehead beers and Caesars.

Photo provided by Switch! Grill

By Annie Wei

July 1 is Canada Day, and this year, local nightlife blogger and wine connoisseur Jim Boyce, who is Canadian, has decided to organize a food event around town.

The event's name, he said, is Canada Grade-Eh Week, starting next Monday, with activities scheduled until July 1.

"Grade" means high quality and "Eh" is a recognizable Canadian verbal tic, Boyce said, kind of like "er" in Beijing dialect.

The only celebration of Canada Day every year in Beijing features a hot chili pepper contest. Boyce said he hopes for more Canada-related activities to introduce people to the country's other food options.

Realizing that if one wants something done, it's best to do it oneself, he sent emails to restaurant owners asking for support.

By Wednesday, six restaurants had signed on: Four Corners, A Food Affaire, No More Bunz, Starfish, Switch! Grill and The Cut restaurant at Fairmont Hotel.

"We hope to give some exposure to venues with Canadian involvement and to get customers to try some fun foods," Boyce said.

These include poutine, which is essentially French fries with fresh cheese curbs and gravy; Nanaimo bars, a chocolate treat; and Caesars, a cocktail known for its use of Clamato, a mix of clam and tomato juice.

The venues are also nice and diverse, ranging from a hot dog stand to a sophisticated steak restaurant.

Boyce said he's not trying

to compete with other Canada promoters.

"I think all of us want to share some of the things we like with people from other nations," he said. "In my case, I want my friends to try Montreal-style bagels, poutine, maple syrup, Moosehead beer, some of our better rye whisky and the tiny doughnuts known as Timbits. And Caesars."

He's also teaming up with some restaurants to put a Canadian twist to their food menu, including Canadian beverages such as Moosehead or Canadian Club whiskey.

Last year, Boyce and his friends organized a Canada Day-Fourth of July party. They started at Home Plate, which this year is doing a "Memphis" poutine and Moosehead deal, and finished at The Box, which will be making the pastry Beaver Tails this year. Meanwhile, the bar 12SQM will offer a buy-one, get-one-free deal on Canadian Club, and Paddy O'Shea's Wednesday quiz will feature lots of Canadian content.

"We hope to add quite a few more places by the time Canada Grade-Eh Week is finished," Boyce said.

Here are some "friends of Canada." They don't have Canadian owners or managers, but are joining in:

Home Plate BBQ

Buy Memphis "Poutine," pulled pork or brisket with cheese (35 yuan), comes with two bottles of Moosehead for 40 yuan

The Box

Poutine (35 yuan), plus Beaver Tails, a pastry (35

Switch! Grill

Maple syrup-glazed ribs with fries and greens, 160 yuan; the venue will offer an all-you-can-eat ribs special (120 yuan, 5-8 pm) on July 1; buckets of five Moosehead beers (100 yuan), and pitchers of Caesars are available. Reservations highly recommended.

Starfish Wine Bar and Seafood Restaurant

A clamato oyster shot, with Crystal Head vodka from Canada, 68 yuan (Starfish is closed on Mondays)

4corners

Poutine, with fresh cheese curds and Moosehead beer, 88 yuan

A Food Affaire

Nanaimo bars, including mint and cherry flavors, 18 yuan; beefy Mac and Cheese, salad, 36 yuan

No More Bunz

48-centimeter hot dog with Italian and German sausages topped with Canadian cheddar and bacon, 70 yuan; or 110 yuan with two bottles of Moosehead

The Cut, Fairmont Hotel

Beef from Alberta, 220-gram filet mignon (425 yuan) and 280-gram rib eye (400 yuan)

Western etiquette enters Beijing communities

By Liu Xiaochen

Many institutions purport to teach etiquette in China's first- and second-tier cities, but Knigge Academy in Beijing tries to set itself apart by using foreign teachers who specialize in Western etiquette.

Students who pass the course get a certificate from the academy.

"For us, etiquette was taught by elders, which means they're authentic and original," said Peter Hoeker, one of the teachers, who has been in China for nine years and taught etiquette for seven.

Hoeker said he thinks it's

important to learn Western etiquette, because it can be very different from what locals are accustomed to. Chinese people who do business with foreigners should especially pay attention to avoid potentially deal-killing faux pas.

"Actually, Western etiquette is always necessary when you communicate with foreigners in work," Hoeker said.

The Knigge Academy, founded in Germany nearly 20 years ago, opened its first overseas branch last March in Beijing.

"Communication between China and foreign countries is

becoming more and more frequent," said Liu Huizhong, the academy's key account manager. "Chinese people want to learn more about Western etiquette. We established our first overseas branch in China because we think etiquette will be a practical demand."

Until September, Knigge Academy is holding a series of free public classes for several Beijing communities. On June 9, Hoeker went into the central business district to talk about how one should dress and present him or herself.

The academy plans to hire more professional trainers in the future.



Peter Hoeker (middle) with young Chinese students

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

Public transportation getting more convenient

By Zhang Jidong

Local authorities continue to implement policies in the hope of alleviating traffic congestion and pollution problems. Here are some of the latest.

Rental bikes

For the past four years, private companies have tried to promote their rental bike service, but most have failed.

The government finally stepped in last year to provide subsidies and incentives, and as a result, new service stations are being built to make it more convenient for people rent bicycles.

Since Monday, 63 rental service stations and 2,000 new bicycles have been put into use. At the moment, these stations are only in Dongcheng and Chaoyang districts, along subway lines 5 and 10.

The rental service will be free of charge for the first hour, and only 1 yuan per hour after that. If this experiment proves to be successful, the government is planning to build 1,000 service stations and equip them with 50,000 bikes.

However, the process of applying for a bike rental card is not fully functional yet; it is currently only open to those with a Beijing ID.



More rental bikes are available for public use.

Photo by Zhang Jidong

Buying a bus card

Since 1924, when the first trolley began operations in Beijing, the bus network in the city has become one of the most developed in the world.

Within the city, its complex network can take people from any point to almost any other.

Public transportation cards, available with a 20-yuan deposit, can be recharged at any of several places and offer a discount on bus rides. With

the card, it is only 0.4 yuan per ride. Otherwise, it costs 1 yuan for most buses.

Battery commuter

In order to encourage the use of public transportation, battery-powered commuter vehicles are also being offered in some communities.

Beijing is growing so fast that sometimes the speed of infrastructure development is outpaced by the establishment of new communities,

which means some apartment complexes are located in suburbs not covered by the transportation network.

To solve this problem, a number of local governing bodies have purchased small commuter vehicles to help take people from their home to the subway station.

Check your community's website to see which commuter lines are available, and at what times.

To tour the Olympic Park – National Stadium by train

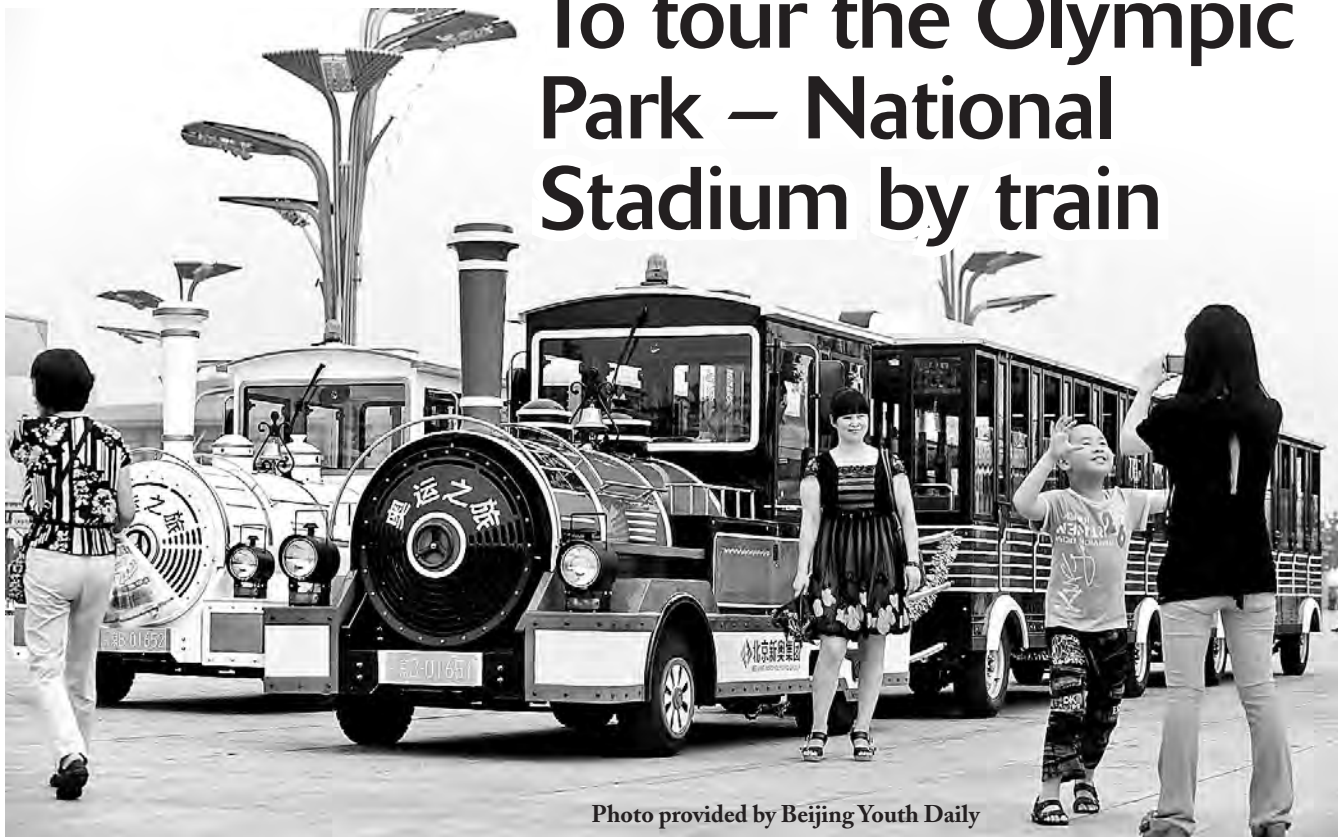


Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

This week, two small "trains" began operating in the National Stadium and the Olympic Park.

The new service aims to relieve the pressure of huge number of tourists

during the summer, which reached 350,000 people last year.

Each train has 56 seats with a driver and a tour guide. The cost is 50 yuan.

Visitors can get off at Exit B of

Subway Line 8's Olympic Center Station and walk three minutes to the train station. Each tour lasts 20 minutes, and visitors can stop three times on the way.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I forgot to bring a charger for my Sony Handy-cam HDR-HCR – where can I buy one?

There is a digital workshop that sells authentic Sony products and accessories near Wudaokou subway station. The address is Room 417, 4th Floor, Wudaokou Commercial Center, Chengfu Lu, Baidian District. It's a small workshop with no telephone number; just drop by during the normal hours.

I am looking for silk curtains, but want to buy the fabric myself, according to my measurements. Any good places to do this?

Check out Jimei Furnishing. It is one of the biggest furnishing companies in Beijing, which provides customization and door-to-door service. You can find plenty of exquisite Western-style curtains. For more information, visit jimei.com.cn or call at 8788 5588.

I've bought a piece of silk cloth that I want to turn into a qipao, the traditional Chinese dress for woman. Where can I find a skilled tailor to make one?

You can go to Ruifuxiang, a renowned century-old shop that specializes in qipao designs and tailoring, located at Qianmen Dajie. Tailors there are all proficient in making traditional costume. Call them at 6303 5764 or visit ruifuxiang.cn. If you want a cheaper option, try the stores on the third floor of Yashou next to Sanlitun. They do a pretty good job.

I'm looking for a place that does back waxing. Also, a tanning salon. Are there any in Beijing?

Check out Kocoon Spa Lounge & Elixirs (kocoonspalounge.com) in Sanlitun. They offer really good waxing services at a reasonable price. They also have tanning beds. Call them at 5208 6068.

(By Wei Ying)

California brings

US winemakers get serious about Chinese tastes



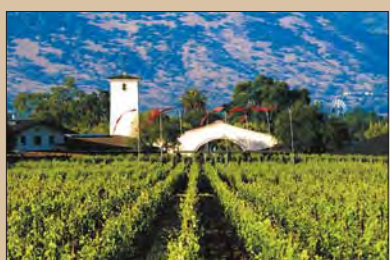
Grgich Hills Estate's Cabernet Sauvignon



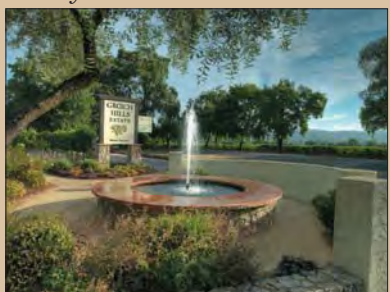
Grape stomping at Grgich Hills Estate



Cade Winery



The grape yard in Robert Mondavi Winery



Grgich Hills Estate

California quality

Wine is big in China, there's no question of that. Formerly enjoyed only by the upper class and at business settings, the growing middle class has been quick to embrace wine culture. Wine is now commonly available at family gatherings and other social events.

The growing consumption helped China to displace the UK as the world's fifth largest wine consumer.

That makes China especially attractive for US winemakers, the world's fourth largest producer of wine.

Wine sales by California vineyards hit a record \$1.39 billion in 2011, up 22 percent from the previous year. Although Hong Kong remained the region's third largest export market after the EU and Canada, exports to China grew 42 percent to \$62 million.

For two decades, California has been producing some of the finest wines in the world, said Gavin Newsom, lieutenant governor of California.

"We haven't been as strong in the China market as wines

from France, Italy, Australia and New Zealand, but we are enthusiastic about the introduction of our wines to China," he said.

Despite being the fourth largest winemaker, California wines are sorely underrepresented in China.

"I went to dozens of wine stores, supermarkets and restaurants in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing where there were only a handful of California wines on the wine list," Newsom said.

That may be because of a stubborn perception by Chinese consumers that "old world wines" are better.

"Most Chinese feel that French wine is better, just because of its history," said Tempe Reichardt, managing director of Left Bank LLC, which represents many California wineries in China and Europe.

But perceptions may be changing.

"I have seen other new-to-wine markets in other areas of the world evolve, learn and eventually understand that California makes some of the best quality wine in the world," she said. "It's only a matter of time."

A growing market

That winning the China market will take time is something all the wineries seem to agree on.

"We need to be patient and persistent in marketing our wines in China," Reichardt said.

For the wineries CADE and PlumpJack, the easiest way to secure a presence in the country was through fine restaurants.

"Due to the fact that our wineries are small estates, our production is very limited. We were able to ensure quality distribution through some of China's fine restaurants," said John Conover, manager and partner of the two brands.

"To be successful in China, we need to embrace not only expats, but also Chinese connoisseurs," he said.

Grgich Hills Estate, the maker of a Chardonnay that beat the best of France at the famed Paris Tasting, also tried to enter the China market by placing its products at restaurants and hotels.

"It was proving difficult to find the right importer with a good infrastructure and warehouse system, so we went with someone who is interested in business gift programs," said Maryanne

Wedner, direc-

By Sere

Wineries from the US, Australia, New Zealand, fiercely for the attention

Few are more committed to spreading their brand. Sonoma County Vintners and Zinfandel Advocates a to 8 as part of California's lar



the vino

ma Qiu

Argentina, Chile and South Africa are competing for the attention of Chinese consumers. More than the winemakers from Napa Valley Vintners, and Producers, which toured the country from June 4 to 10, the largest ever winery delegation.

Director of corporate and export sales at Grgich Hills Estate.

"The great news for wine is that Chinese consumers have a thirst for knowledge about wine styles, tastes and stories," said Phillip Kingston, senior vice president of Robert Mondavi Wines in Asia.

He said Robert Mondavi and other winemakers see a tremendous growth opportunity as Chinese wealth spreads out of Beijing and Shanghai and into second- and third-tier cities across the country.

To help more wineries enter the market, the California Wine Institute has been holding promotional activities, including advertorial campaigns and trade trips, to educate Chinese wine drinkers about the state's award-winning vino.

"The most important thing for the wineries ... is to try to position their wine as conducive or a very good flavor match for the Chinese consumer's palate," said Eric Pope, region director of emerging markets at the California Wine Institute.

That means actively tailoring the product for the market — not creating gimmicky labels that play on Chinese elements.

"We, as Californians, need to visit China often and get to know the market. We can't come with precon-

ceived ideas that this new and very potent market will immediately understand our wines or us," Reichardt said.

Success ahead

"Robert Mondavi was a pioneer in imported wines to China, and many Chinese wine lovers know that the Robert Mondavi name is globally recognized as a symbol of quality, craftsmanship and taste," Kingston said.

"China's middle and affluent classes desire more access to world-famous wines and their associated attributes of health, sophistication and relaxation that have long been enjoyed by wine lovers in more established economies," he said.

Newsom said he expects to see more partnerships between Chinese firms and California wineries to build joint-venture vineyards.

For California, the exposure would help boost the state's agriculture and share the state's lifestyle and landmarks. Newsom envisions a campaign that would pair California wines with Hollywood, the high-tech industry and northern California's redwood forests.



Cade Winery

Photos provided by Serena Qiu

"When we promote the state of California, we promote a lifestyle that includes great food and wine, beautiful mountains, coastal community, beaches and diversity," he said.

There is also great potential as California wineries begin investing in China, which has the land and technology needed to produce some world-class wines, he said.

"I am convinced that the Chinese consumers, once they know us and our wines, will fall in love with our products," Reichardt said.



Tempe Reichardt



Gavin Newsom

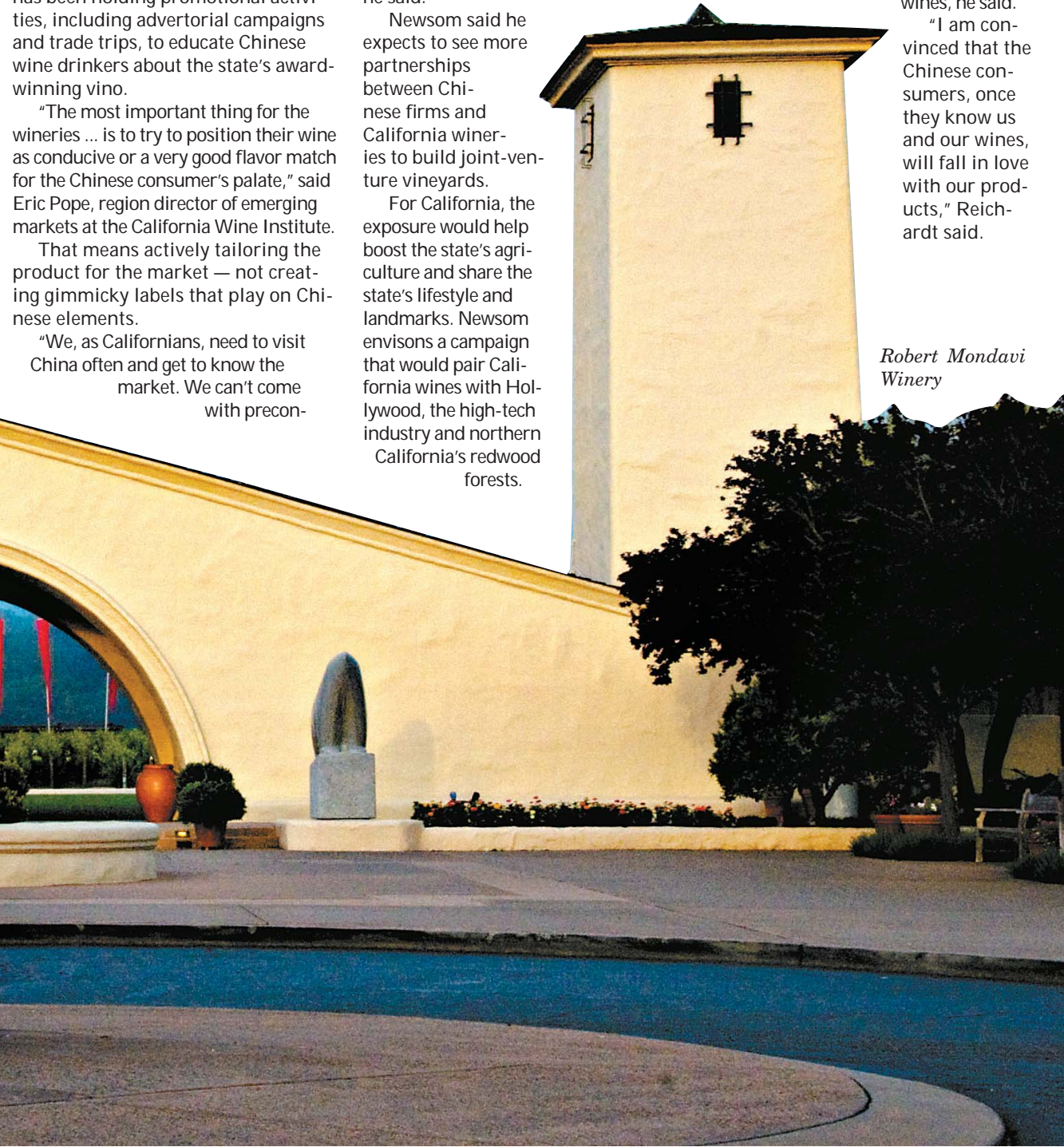


Maryanne Wedner



John Conover

Robert Mondavi Winery



The world as seen by Song Kun



By Zhou Xu

Song Kun, one of the country's most prominent young female artists, opened an exhibition at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art earlier this month to showcase her creations of the last two years.

The 28 paintings and one video installation hang salon-style along the twin walls of UCCA's Nave. Long, black drop curtains on the west end of the exhibition make the space resemble a vast dream world – an atmosphere that plays well with Song's creations.

Her works include delicate jellyfish, stylish punk musicians and portraits, as well as a series titled *A Thousand Kisses Deep*. Many demonstrate an exploration of the abstract dominated by shifts between light and dark.

The technical studies of drifting light evoke a sinister, sensual beauty and the dual themes of carnality and spirituality.

Many viewers have been impressed by the dreamlike style of the video installation. The combination of electronic strings, muted vocals and the psychological narrative creates a distinguished atmosphere.

Song said her artwork is influenced by music and philosophy, and she always incorporates musical elements into works. "I listen to many kinds of music. Each is special and inspiring," she said.

The walls are separated by props such as crystal heels, exaggerated bottles and plastic sex toys. By exploring the quiet properties of natural materials, Song tries to explore the realm of carnality.

Born in 1977 in Inner Mongolia, Song began painting at the age of three and in 2006 received a Master's Degree in



oil painting at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. She was also a founding member of the artist group N12, which included Qiu Xiaofei, Hu Xiaoyuan and Wang Guangle.

"For me, painting is like breathing. It goes hand in hand with eating and sleeping," she said.

Having grown up in an era of fast economic development, her nostalgic obsession with the commonplace sets Song apart from the political pop art of the era. Her works contain subtle criticisms and a muted mourning for something that has been lost.

"As a female artist, Song Kun is being herself. Her art stems from her daily life experience," said Philip Tinari, director of UCCA.

Earlier works provided glimpses into the narrative of her life by focusing on small romances of the ordinary. At her first solo exhibition, *It's My Life*, she produced 366 miniature paintings of the world as she observes it.



"I probe some issues from a woman's unique psychological and physiological perspective. The soul, belief, desire and control are all common to the human experience," she said. "But in all of these, a woman's experience is different."

The exhibition title comes from the song "A Thousand Times Kisses Deep" by Leonard Cohen, a Canadian musician born in 1934.

As one of her favorite songs, Song said its fierce emotions about religion, isolation, sexuality and interpersonal relationships fit modern Chinese



Photos provided by Song Kun

society – what she tries to depict in this exhibition.

"China has changed a lot, and I think it is time to reevaluate, clarify and establish what we value and believe," she said. "That is why I want to explore the current state of the Chinese people: their love, belief, desire and greed."



News for kids, by kids.

No one knows better than Chinese parents how the future depends on children: most spare no effort to be “wolf dads” and “tiger moms” to send their children down the path to success.

As part of its commitment to young readers, *Beijing Today*, together with *Middle School Times* and *Beijing Children's Weekly*, is beginning a weekly education report to share the views and events happening in the lives of Chinese youth.

What are they saying?



It's not an issue of centimeters!

Blogging celebrities Fang Zhouzi and Han Han are battling again – this time with each other.

Fang Zhouzi has long been known for being a public critic who exposes products that have no science to back up their claims, such as those that attribute their efficacy to qigong and fake herbal concoctions.

Now he is using his website to take on Han Han, the popular writer who won the hearts of millions of teenage girls for his success, handsome appearance and fortune.

Fang said Han Han is only 155 centimeters, as opposed to 180 centimeters tall, as Han has said.

But does height really matter?

Britain's great poet John Keats, credited with kicking off the romanticism movement, was only 150 centimeters tall.

Lu Xun, the revolutionary Chinese writer who smashed the backward writing style of China in the 1930s, was shorter than 160 centimeters. Honoré de Balzac, the great French author of

La Comédie Humaine, was only 152 centimeters tall.

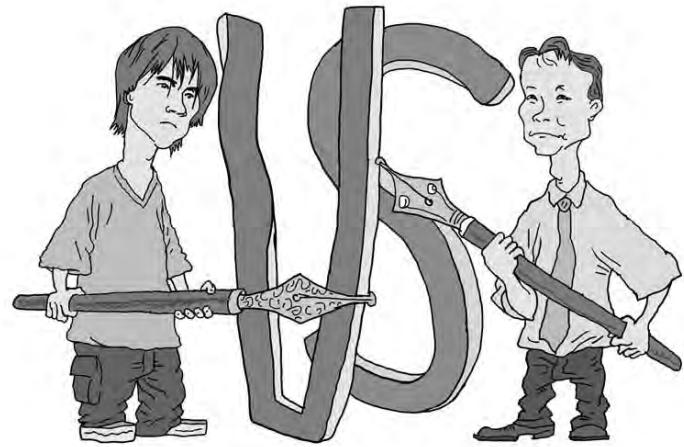
But as a market-oriented writer, height is important to Han Han. He sells his works more by his image than their quality. As a result, his continued success in the market depends on maintaining the image of a tall, rich and handsome youth.

With that gone, his works would be examined for what they really are: rubbish.

Han visited Taiwan last month and was received by Ma Ying-jeou, the leader of the island. Ma called the young writer a good example for teens.

When Han said he appreciated Taiwan's culture as an extension of Chinese culture and education, he was criticized by students studying on the island and in Hong Kong and Macau, who said Han failed to make any deep observation of its culture.

Being market-oriented is neither good nor bad. The problem is that being too market-oriented produces “writers” like Han Han.



Illustrated by Chen Bing

A real writer should examine the social problems and shortcomings of a nation. That is the only way to create a work that stands forever.

Thanks to this fight, Fang has become a “public intellectual” and won recognition for his straightforward assessment.

The clash also brought Han back

into the spotlight, whose fame has been sliding since he entered the public eye at age 14 in 2002.

Such is the market: a bad writer can win a second round of fame thanks to the hype of current criticism.

It's the shame of our age.

– Yue Qian, student,
Beijing No. 35 Middle School

What do they care about?



China's image abroad

A rich man from Sichuan Province crashed his red Ferrari, killing himself, while driving above the speed limit last month in Singapore.

The much publicized crash inspired many Singaporeans to dub such people – widely seen as rich in money but rude in manner – “rich locusts,” or yellow worms in the original Chinese.

While many considered Singapore's reaction a sign of discrimination, it may not be undeserved.

Many rich Chinese, especially those born into money, like to show off and believe they can settle any problem using their fortunes. They take that attitude abroad and proceed to disregard all concepts of law, virtue and modesty.

China's image is built on the actions of its people, especially the ones who go abroad. It is not built on promotional videos played in Times Square in New York City.

People who behave in this way do nothing to improve China's image abroad.

– Lin Musen, student,
Beijing No. 27 Middle School

Dialects and accents

A man recently complained online that he was fired by his boss in Beijing because he spoke in Suzhou dialect with other people from his hometown.

Professor Yi Zhongtian has said that the Chinese language can mostly be classified in two groups: the dialects of the north, which are quite similar to the standard official form, and the dialects south of the Yangtze River, which vary greatly.

Many people from the south struggle to speak accurate and fluent standard Chinese, just as northerners struggle while traveling through the south.

Language is a tool for human beings to communicate: what matters is that both sides understand each other.

I think it's rather stupid to forbid someone to speak in a dialect while in the office. Speaking in one's hometown dialect can ease pressure and give a sense of relaxation, thus improving work efficiency.

– Yin Jinghui, student,
Beijing No. 27 Middle School

Internship or deposit?

A graduate of a financial university reportedly applied for an internship at Standard & Chartered Bank in Beijing. After several rounds of tests and interviews, she was given the job.

However, on the first day of work, she was told she would have to deposit 500,000 yuan to keep the internship and receive her certificate.

Exactly what was the bank doing? Looking for qualified interns or luring VIP customers? What happens when the girl is from a poor family but is professionally qualified?

Is it more beneficial if the bank hires a meathead who knows nothing about finance but can deposit a million of his family's yuan in the bank?

We all know that the job market is getting fiercely competitive, but aren't internships supposed to be a way to recruit talented professionals?

Capability should be the top criterion a bank looks at when hiring an intern; strange requirements like this only turn away qualified candidates.

– Lin Qin, student,
Beijing No. 27 Middle School

Stores we like at Nali Patio

By Annie Wei

Nali Patio is popular with fashion boutiques, but without unique products, they come and go fast.

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted a few stores might stand the test of time, including a sunglasses shop and a small home décor store.



Sexy glasses

A pair of glasses can enhance one's style. For book nerds, big black-framed glasses are popular; for people going for a star's look, exaggerated frames with angel wings can make one stand out; for young men who want to look arty, antique round lenses have been "in" in recent years.

You can find all these styles at the newly opened store Coterie, a Shanghai-based brand founded by a small group of friends with a common interest.

The store carries more than a dozen brands, including Oliver Peoples, TART,

Lunettes Kollektion, Thom Browne and Karren Walker. These may be relative unknowns among commercial shoppers, but they've established reputations based on their quality and style, especially overseas.

A lot of these, because of their popularity among celebrities, are not cheap and start at 2,000 yuan per pair.

Coterie

Where: D109, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 8 pm

Tel: 5208 6065



CFP Photos

A summer home upgrade

Although many enjoy visiting Wumiyuan clothing market for its variety, its quality leaves much to be desired.

A small fabric and carpet store called Girones at Nali Patio is a nice place for selecting quality fabric to make curtains and sofas.

Its handmade wool carpets look nice and feel comfortable. Girones is an 80-year-old Spanish home décor brand that uses natural materials. We like its floral prints which add a nice touch to a modern and spacious apartment.

Fabric prices vary depending on size and materials; carpets start from 20,000 yuan.

Girones

Where: A307 and 308, south tower, Nali Patio, 81, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 8 pm

Tel: 5208 6195



CFP Photos

Neighborhood friendly eateries

By Annie Wei

Xinyuanli, with its network of residential compounds, is known for having friendly, community-style restaurants that offer delicious meals at modest prices.

Congee hotpot

Unlike Sichuan hotpot, which is heavy with spices and oil, Cantonese hotpot uses rice congee and seafood.

Zhenziwei is the most popular Cantonese hotpot at Xinyuanli. At night, the restaurant is usually packed with young customers.

We ordered the dry scallop and congee hotpot (38 yuan). You need to stir the pot from time to time to prevent the congee from sticking.

The most recommended dish is qingyuanji (48 yuan), made from chickens shipped from Guangdong. The grass carp (49 yuan) is shipped from Zhongshan, Guangdong Province. The fish is farm-fed broad beans so that its meat keeps its texture even after staying in the hotpot for an extended time. Different meatballs (68 yuan) of beef, shrimp and cuttlefish are must-tries.

Zhenziwei

Where: 8 Xinyuan Xili Zhong Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6465 0514

Cost: Average 60 yuan per person

Congee gitoit
CFP Photo



Cozy Japanese restaurant

Tucked deep inside the residential neighborhood, next to a small steamed-bun eatery, Suzumei is praised by diners for its quality dishes and reasonable prices.

The restaurant has a regular menu and drink list, as well as special sashimi and grills of the day. The prices make diners feel they can order a bit of everything.

Grilled chicken gizzards (8 yuan) were juicy and good. We liked the grilled chicken breast and Japanese plum and perilla (8 yuan) combination. Perilla gives the dish a nice aroma and balances the plum's sourness, but the chicken breast was a bit dry. Saury (22 yuan), beef tongue (25 yuan) and eggplant (8 yuan) are all tasty.

We ordered the rice ball (8 yuan), which comes with Japanese plum, salmon or okaka, and Ochazuke (15 yuan), a typical Japanese dish where hot green tea is poured over white rice and topped with simple ingredients.

One can choose Japanese plums or salmon. Although it looks simple, it has a very unique taste. To increase the flavor, you can season it with wasabi.

Japanese eel rice (78 yuan) includes two pieces of fat eel in a bowl of white rice. Some people like it, though some northern diners might think the eels are too sweet.

For drinks, we ordered the plum wine (starting from 20 yuan). The most expensive sake, Kubota Senjyu, is just 130 yuan for a big bottle.

Suzumei

Where: 1st floor, Building 6, Sanyuanli Shengtai Xiaoku, 2 Xinyuan Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 6 pm – midnight, closed on Sundays

Tel: 6466 0204

Cost: Average 120 yuan per person



Tampura, starting from 25 yuan
CFP Photo

Nice Beijing food



Most meat dishes cost between 30 to 50 yuan.
CFP Photo

The restaurant Fumanyuan, run by a father-son duo, is a five-minute walk east of Xinyuanli Residential Compound.

It's hard to find a place with home-style Beijing dishes as mouthwatering as at Fumanyuan.

The restaurant may look average, but it draws diners from all across town. Braised ribbonfish in brown sauce (40 yuan) and stewed spareribs and kidney beans (29 yuan) are its signature dishes.

The fish is braised to just the right texture, and combines sweet, salty and spicy. The stewed pork ribs are tender, and the soy flavor is addictive.

"All our dishes are cooked with fresh, rich soy sauce instead of excessive oil and spices, which is why our dishes taste different and are not greasy," said restaurant owner Ding Yitian.

Besides the meat dishes, patrons also like Fumanyuan's hot and sour shredded pork and fried bok choy cabbage, both at 12 yuan.

Most dishes, in fact, cost between 10 and 50 yuan. The servings are big,

making it a great place to eat with two or three friends. There is always a line out the front door during meal hours.

Apparently, people who eat leave soon after. "Our guests are mainly return customers who leave immediately after a meal, instead of sitting around and chatting," Ding said. "It's an implicit agreement we have with them."

The restaurant is only 15 square meters big, and can fit about 40 customers. People like its friendly, community atmosphere: regulars often share a table with strangers.

The Ding family does not plan to open another outlet because it's hard to maintain the same quality. The good news is that its space will expand, as it will be taking over the space from the store next door.

Fumanyuan restaurant

Where: 10 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6461 8656

Cost: Starting from 20 yuan per person

Hotel

Dynasty executive floor at Sunworld Dynasty Hotel

Designed for the discerning senior executive, the Dynasty Executive Floor is a truly unique experience for business travelers, providing enhanced service, comfort and convenience.

Executive rooms offer various special privileges for business travelers, such as wired and wireless Internet access, a mini-bar and a fully-equipped private office. Distinctive Sunrider herbal toiletries and Air Purifier help make guests feel more at home.

Enjoy personalized check-in and check-out; exclusive usage of the Dynasty Executive Lounge; wireless Internet

access; fresh fruit and soft drinks throughout the day; a daily breakfast buffet, afternoon tea and happy hour cocktail; daily complimentary laundry service valued at 50 yuan; complimentary upgrade to an Executive Suite or Deluxe Suite after five stays on the Executive Floor within a year; and late check-out.

More executive privileges such as free meeting room use, discounts on car rentals and business center services make the stay stress-free.

Where: Sunworld Dynasty Hotel, 50 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District
Tel: 5816 8888



Airline

Youth to fly further this school holiday with Jetstar

Summer is the peak season for outbound travel, with young travelers looking to enjoy a summer school holiday outside China, according to leading leisure travel blogger, Fan Yibo.

"Travel trends are rapidly changing. Chinese students used to travel to domestic destinations, but they are now looking overseas for travel experiences," Fan said.

"These youth don't have regular incomes and have to make the best use of their allowance or part-time salary. They search rigorously to devise the most cost-effective travel plan, which usually involved taking advantage of a low-fares air carrier like Jetstar."

David Koczkar, Jetstar's chief commercial officer, said the airline's growth in the number of low-fare services from China into

its Singapore hub was encouraging more Chinese travelers to spend their summer holidays at various destinations across Asia.

"When we launch in new markets, we find one in 10 of our passengers is a first-time travelers. Our low fares encourage young travelers who have never been able to afford air travel to fly to some of the region's most exciting destinations," he said.

Jetstar now flies from Beijing, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Shantou, Guangzhou, Haikou, Nanning, Taipei and Hong Kong to Singapore with connections to 14 destinations, including Bali and Phuket.

Jetstar's low fares are available via Jetstar.com, through travel agents or by calling Jetstar's Contact Centre at 4001 201 260.



Dining

White asparagus

Crisp white asparagus from France signals the start of summer at Aria. This summer's new dinner menu from executive chef David Pooley includes signature dishes such as white asparagus with traditional lemon Hollandaise, anise-cured Norwegian salmon and caviar and seared Australian sea scallops with dried abalone mushrooms, fennel pollen and white asparagus.

The menu also includes scrambled hen's egg, seabass carpaccio, soufflé twice cooked with Roquefort and pear chutney and white



asparagus tips.

Where: Aria, China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until June 30

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 36

Euro Cup at Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town

The Euro Cup is on.

Watch the exiting games on the large-screen LCDs with your friends at Hopfenstube German Restaurant and Brewery and share a 1-kilogram German country-style snail sausage – large enough to feed four – for 228 yuan

Get into the game at the house foosball table and celebrate with home-brewed fresh beer.

Located on the lobby level of Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, Hopfenstube German Restaurant and Brewery uses the freshest hops imported from Germany. The house brewmaster makes lager, wheat and dark beers, as well as a seasonal beer. The restaurant has authentic foods like pork knuckles and sau-



sages from Germany.

Hopfenstube can seat 200 and has a beautiful, open patio. It provides guests with numerous diversions such as snooker, foosball and playing cards.

Where: Hopfenstube German Restaurant and Brewery, Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town, 3 Sanfeng Bei Li, Chaoyang District

Cost: 228 yuan

Tel: 5909 6683

Wine enjoyment



Enhance your buffet experience with a free sample of the Westin's select imported red and white wines, chosen from its Wines of the World collection. It's a perfect opportunity to pair wine with its extensive buffet.

Where: Westin Beijing Chaoyang, 7 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 31

Cost: 98 yuan, includes unlimited red and white wines and local beer

Tel: 5922 8880

California prune delights

The award-winning culinary team, in collaboration with California Prune Board, has created California Prune Delights with a selection of Prune dishes at its dinner buffet.

Where: Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: June 25 – July 31, every Saturday to Thursday

Cost: dinner buffet 268 yuan



per person

Tel: 5865 5000

(By Zhang Nan)

Fri, Jun. 22



Nightlife Turtle Egg Murder and Jonathan Kaiman

The UK band Turtle Egg Murder sings simply arranged songs written by its band members. Jonathan Kaiman, from the US, is inspired by the sounds of Yunnan and the rhythms of Kashgar and surrounding areas.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie,

Dongcheng District
When: 9-11:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6401 5269

Drama Donghuan Plaza Tower D – Black Out

This play tells of the temptation of fame, the disorder of competition without morals and the imbalance of people's spirits. The playwright, Tong

Daoming, is a famous drama critic and Russian literature translator. The director is Zhang Ziyi, who graduated from the Film and Television Production Department, part of the Central Academy of Drama Beijing.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: 7:30-11:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan
Tel: 6400 6472

Sat, Jun. 23



Exhibition "Impression" by Olivier Allemane and Eric Aupol

Olivier Allemane, born in France in 1959, holds solo exhibitions in Europe and the US almost every year. Eric Aupol, born in 1969 in Charlieu, France, is a teacher at the National Higher Academy of Fine Arts in Bourges and the Paris Industrial Design University.

Where: Room 5127, Tower 5, Sanlitun Soho, 8 Gongren Tiyuchang Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 11 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6533 1349

Recitation "The Savior" by Eugene Drucker

Eugene Drucker is an internationally renowned violinist with eight Grammy Awards. He founded the Emerson String Quartet more than 30 years ago. The Savior is his first novel.

Where: Zajia Bar, Hongguguan Qianjian, Doufuchi Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 2:30-3:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 021-5496 0808



Drama Love Conquers All

This drama describes the stories of love in the 1900s, 2000s and 2100s. The playwright is Bernard Vedrenne, a playwright and critic in France. The play is directed by Gu Yan.

Where: Penghao Theatre, 35 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: Every day until June 26, 7:30-11:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan
Tel: 6400 6472

Nightlife Live performance by Why Oceans

The band Why Oceans was founded in 2005 in Macau. Members are guitarists Luis Carvalhais, Tommy Chu and Mike Wong, bassist Jase Lam, keyboarder Jackal Tam and drummer Leo Chan. They released their first album, *At Land*, last year.

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: 8:30-11:30 pm
Admission: 50 yuan (40 for students)
Tel: 6402 5080

Sun, Jun 24



Lecture "The interaction between theater and society"

This lecture will be presented by Mathias Lafolie, director of the Swedish Association of Stage and Screen.

Where: Penghao Theater, 35 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: Every day until June 26, 7:30-11:30 pm
Admission: 80 yuan
Tel: 6400 6472



Tue, Jun. 26



Movie La Scorta

This movie follows four bodyguards who work together. The movie was written by Graziano Diana and Simon Izzo, and directed by Ricky Tognazzi.

Where: Theater of Italian Council, 2 Sanlitun Dongerjie, Chaoyang District
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Exhibition Hiroshi Sugimoto

Hiroshi Sugimoto was born in Tokyo in 1948. Starting in 1974, he lived and worked in New York. Sugimoto successfully interprets the full potential

of black, white and gray.
Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiu-xianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6532 2187

Wed, Jun. 27

Nightlife Luo Ning Piano Concert

Luo Ning was born into a musical family and grew up in Xinjiang. He has performed on stage behind the piano with international jazz, classical, pop and folk musicians since 1998. He has cooperated with musicians such as Kenny Garrete, Jens Winther and Olivier Roussel.



Where: Lanxi Bar, 183 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District
When: 9-11 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 6403 2597

Thu, Jun. 28

Dancing Class Dance from Bollywood

Bollywood dance has become the cornerstone of Indian film. Bollywood dance brings feeling to people rather than steps. The teacher, Dilara, is from India. He often travels between China and India to teach Bollywood dance.

Where: Room 1910, Building A of Sanlitun



Soho, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Every Thursday until July 26, 7:30-9 pm
Admission: 200 yuan (100 for members)
Tel: 6403 2597

(By Liu Xiaochen)

Scotland is the place to be for this summer's Olympics

By Liu Xiaochen

The highlands of Scotland, with their rich natural beauty and traditional culture, are always a great place to visit during the summer. But this year, with the Olympics so close, there are extra reasons for travelers to make their way to idyllic country.

In Scotland, visitors can lay back, relax and learn more about the UK.

Cities and towns

Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is divided into two parts by the Princes Street Gardens. The most famous places include Edinburgh Castle and Royal Mile, both on the southern side of town.

Every August, performing artists and visitors from around the world visit the Royal Mile, which hosts the International Festival and International Fringe Festival. At the same time at Edinburgh Castle, a Military Tattoo always happens at the same time.

The Greyfriars Church and Greyfriars Bobby Memorial are also historical memorials worth checking out in the area.

These days, there's somewhat of a modern attraction that draws visitors as well. A coffee shop called The Elephant House is where JK Rowling is said to have started writing Harry Potter. Although the shop is very small, people find a way to get there – and recognize it by the words "Birthplace of Harry Potter" on its window.

Although Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland, Glasgow is the largest city (there's some dispute about whether it or Manchester is the third largest city in the UK). Relative to the cultural and historical city of Edinburgh, Glasgow is industrial and modern. It was the second city in the UK, behind London, to build a subway line.

Glasgow is where Jet Li filmed the action thriller *Unleashed*.

Then there's Stirling, a historical town with a beautiful campus and a castle.

The two are actually on the same.

The campus of the University of Stirling is built inside a palace next to an old castle and surrounded by more than 120 hectares of woodlands and grass. Airthrey Castle and Airthrey Lake are the best attractions.

The surroundings are home to many wild rabbits, squirrels and birds.

Finally, there is St. Andrews, a seaside



Performers at the International Fringe Festival

A subway station in Glasgow

town with several golf courses, including the legendary course that hosts the yearly British Open.

Highlands

Some of the most beautiful views in the world are in the Scottish highlands.

The best way to go is by car or bus, where passengers can look out the window at a variety of flowers and plants, farm animals and pastureland, and mountains.

During the summer, this ride can be majestic in and of itself, especially if there's a bit of sunshine.

The highlands are known for their lakes, which the Scottish call "lochs." The most famous, of course, is the Loch Ness, home to the mythical Loch Ness monster.

Cruises are available on Loch Ness. The other big lake worth seeing is Loch Lomond, which is less developed than Loch Ness and quieter and cleaner.

Traditional products

Scotland is famous for its kilts, worn by men during special occasions.

Bagpipe music is also popular, as is whisky.

Other foods include special chocolates made of alpine milk from Scotland.

And then there's the Walker, a kind of cookie that serves as a special snack. It's not to be missed.



A Scottish bagpipe player

Photos by Liu Xiaochen

Edinburgh Castle



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